

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A covering of a suction hose having a length comprising:
a sleeve positioned around a suction hose and extending at least along a portion of a length of a suction hose, said sleeve having a circumference;
at least one restraint positioned on the sleeve for removably coupling the sleeve to a suction hose; and
means for carrying the sleeve, said means comprising at least one strap sewn to the sleeve in the form of a loop having an opening configured for grasping by the hand of a user, said loop extending at least partially around the circumference of the sleeve for supporting the weight of a suction hose during transport.
2. (Currently Amended) The covering of claim 1, wherein the at least one restraint includes at least one of an elastic cord and cord lock, an elastic cuff, a lash, a VELCRO™ hook and loop tape strap, a belt having a buckle, a strap having a snap, and at least one tie.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously presented) The covering of claim 1, wherein the at least one restraint comprises two restraints, each of which is positioned at an end of the sleeve.
5. (Original) The covering of claim 1, wherein the restraints are configured to allow the sleeve to be movable along the length of a suction hose.
6. (Original) The covering of claim 1, wherein the sleeve is made of a washable material.
7. (Original) The covering of claim 1, wherein the sleeve is made of nylon or nylon blends.

Claims 8-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) The covering of claim 1, wherein the sleeve has a width that is greater than a diameter of the suction hose.

13. (Original) The covering of claim 1, further comprising a storage portion positioned on the sleeve.

14. (Original) The covering of claim 13, wherein the storage portion is at least one of a pocket that is sewn onto the sleeve and a plurality of lashes for lashing an instrument to the sleeve.

15. (Original) The covering of claim 1, wherein the sleeve has a length that extends between a first and a second end of a suction hose.

16. (Original) The covering of claim 1, wherein the sleeve has a length that exceeds the length of a suction hose.

17. (Original) The covering of claim 1, wherein the sleeve includes indicia on an exterior surface thereof.

18. (Original) The covering of claim 17, wherein the indicia is at least one of a logo, a name, a telephone number, and advertising material.

19. (Original) The covering of claim 17, wherein the indicia is positioned on at least one patch that is connected to the sleeve.

20. (Original) The covering of claim 17, wherein the indicia is screen printed, sewn, or painted on the sleeve.

21. (Original) The covering of claim 1, further comprising at least one reflective member positioned on the sleeve.

22. (Original) The covering of claim 21, wherein the reflective member comprises at least one reflective band positioned on the sleeve.

23. (Original) The covering of claim 1, wherein the sleeve comprises a single sheet of material that is sewn along a single seam to form the sleeve for surrounding the suction hose.

24. (Original) The covering of claim 1, wherein the at least one restraint is positioned in the vicinity of at least one end of the sleeve.

25. (Original) A method of advertising comprising:
positioning the covering of claim 17 around a suction hose.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising positioning the suction hose on a vehicle such that the indicia is visible from an exterior of a vehicle.

Claims 27-32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) The covering of claim 1, A covering of a suction hose having a length comprising:

a tube-like sleeve positioned around a suction hose and extending at least along a portion of a length of a suction hose, said sleeve having a circumference;

at least one restraint positioned on the sleeve for removably coupling the sleeve to a suction hose; and

a plurality of straps fixedly attached to the sleeve in the form of a loop having an opening configured for grasping by the hand of a user, each said loop extending at least partially around the circumference of the sleeve for together supporting the weight of a suction hose during transport,

wherein the sleeve is made of a material that reduces exposure of the suction hose exterior to heat and other contaminants and thereby reduces exterior degradation of the suction hose.

34. (New) A covering for transporting a suction hose having a length comprising:
a tube-like sleeve positioned around a suction hose and extending along the length of a
suction hose;
two restraints positioned at opposite ends of the sleeve for removably coupling the sleeve
to a suction hose; and
at least two handles coupled to the sleeve, each said handle being configured as a strap
that is coupled to the sleeve at spaced locations along the length of the sleeve, said straps being
in the form of a loop where a portion of the loop is free from the sleeve to provide a gap between
the strap and the sleeve allowing a user's hand to enter the gap and grip the handle in order to
transport the sleeve using the handles, wherein each handle at least partially surrounds the sleeve,
and wherein each strap includes a coupled portion where the strap is coupled to the sleeve.

35. (New) The covering of claim 34, wherein three straps are provided, two of the
three straps are positioned in the vicinity of the ends of the sleeve, and a third strap is positioned
near the center of the sleeve.

36. (New) The covering of claim 35, further comprising at least one selectively
closeable storage portion formed independent of the sleeve and coupled to the sleeve.

37. (New) The covering of claim 36, wherein the selectively closeable storage portion
is a pocket formed separate from the sleeve and sewn to the sleeve along its perimeter and a
plurality of lashes for lashing an instrument to the sleeve.

38. (New) The covering of claim 34, wherein the coupled portion includes a plurality
of stitches that are sewn through the strap and the sleeve to fixedly join the strap to the sleeve.